

Town of Townsend
Town Manager's Report
August 3, 2022

The followings are items of significance to serve as the basis for discussion at Council meeting and to inform Town Council of the activities of the Town administration. This is not a comprehensive list of activities over the last month. However, it is intended to provide a briefing on activities.

Covid-19 Concerns/Actions

Regarding Covid cases in the 19734-zip code, as of August 3rd, the average percent of new positive cases is 28.4 %, this is an increase from the 25.9% as of July 2nd. Additionally, the 7-day average of new positive cases as of 8/2/22 is 3.0 compared to 3.7, as of 7/5/22.

Regarding vaccinations: Delaware Public Health is reporting in the 19734- zip code, 78.7% of the total population in the 19734 Zip Code is vaccinated with at least 1 dose.

Vaccination information and sites can be found at: www.de.gov/getmyvaccine .

On March 1st, Governor Carney lifted the Covid-19 state of Emergency and signed a narrow Public Health Emergency order, the Public Health Emergency Order was formally extended on 7/22/22.

Office

Town Hall remains open; masks and appointments continue to be highly encouraged. Social distancing remains in effect.

Repair of Route 71 and Karins Blvd.

The Route 71 and Karins Blvd project is now completed.

Surface Water Matching Planning Grant.

The Surface Water Matching Planning Grant was approved for grant match via Resolution 2022-002 by Council. As approved at the 5/4/22 TC Meeting, Standard Pipe Services will be completing the televising. Televising began on Monday, 6/6/22 and is now completed. As previously mentioned, the televising will allow us to understand what is wrong with the pipes, but repairs will be discussed at a future date once the information is gathered. TE Van-Otoo is working on the report and additional information on the report is forthcoming.

Human Resources

The new Administrative Assistant has begun working and is doing a great job acclimating to the position. Our new Police Sergeant just started and is jumping right into the position.

Police Department

Chief Longo has begun patrolling the Town beginning 5/23/22. We are continuing to work on getting everything installed and set up for the Police Department.

Annexation/Development

I continue to work on the annexation properties into Town. I have been notified that New Castle County voted to proceed with the authorization of annexation of Parcel # 14-016.00-047, 6170 Summit Bridge Road. We will continue to prepare this annexation for Town Council vote.

I continue to be contacted by those interested in annexing into Town. Additional annexation requests that have been approved by Town Council for pursuit of annexation are awaiting approvals from various utilities. Additionally, As discussed at the last Town Council Special meeting, there are various properties that the Planning Commission will need to review to be added to the future annexation map to be sent through state PLUS for review before continuing to pursue annexation.

American Rescue Plan

Regarding the American Rescue Plan, FO Helms and Deputy TM Tantillo continue to review the regulations on how the funds can be spent. We recently met with Barnes and Thornburg to discuss regulations on how we could spend the funds. We will discuss ARPA at the next special meeting.

2020 Comprehensive Plan Revision- Authorization to Proceed

The Comprehensive Plan has been approved and certified by the Governor. The Planning Commission has completed the Annual Report which has been submitted to the state.

Town Park

The mulching in the Town Park has been completed and has really added to the beauty of our Town Park. We have also added rocks to the areas below the bleachers, have added pet waste stations throughout the park, planted flowers around the Veterans monument, restriped the basketball court. The new ADA swing and a new Pickleball net have arrived.

Town Events

During the month of July, we held the knot tying demonstration and workshop led by Cub Scout Pack 351 and a Butterfly Garden Cleanup with Lifehouse Church. During the month of August, the Town will be holding the Soccer workshop for 5–10-year old's on 8/8/22 and a Back to School/ Night Out Event on 8/25/22.

Administrative Matters

Licenses Issued: Contractors Licenses Issued: 13
June Permits: 9 permits issued
7 permits closed and issued a final approval letter.
5 permits closed and issued a Certificate of Occupancy
14 Inspections Completed

Grass & Overgrown Weed Violations:

2 violations- July 2022

Town Mowed- 1

Complaints

1 complaint received in the month of June

Regarding the complaint related to feral cats, we advised the resident to call animal welfare if they were concerned about the cats being ill, but feral cats are not illegal in Delaware.